(e) Super Bazar has reported that a full-time Chief Vigilance Officer has been appointed to revamp its Vigilance Division.

Commodities supplied through PDS

7316. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) which are the essential commodities which are distributed through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether Government will consider bringing some more items, like pulses and edible oil other than 'Palm Oil' for the distribution through Public Distribution System to bring down the prices;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check the arbitrary pricing of essential commodities by traders; and

(d) whether Government are aware that there is more than 40% to 50% difference in prices between wholesale and retail price of essential commodities and if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Central Government makes bulk allocation of key essential commodities such as rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oil, kerosene and soft coke to States/UTs for distributilon to consumers through the Public Distribution System (PDS). State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to include on their own additional items of mass consumption taking into account local needs and preferences of consumers. Many State Governments have reported that items such as pulses, iodised salt, soaps and tea are being distributed to the consumers through Fair Price Shops, especially in the areas covered under the Revamped PDS. There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to add pulses and edible oils other than Palmolein to the list of commodities allocated to States/ UTs for the PDS.

(c) and (d) State Governments UT Administrations have been delegated powers to enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and the Prevention of Block marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act State Governments/UT Administrations take measures to prevent and bring to book unscrupulous traders indulging in unfair trade practice including arbitrary pricing of essential commodities. The Central Government have advised States/ UTs to enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act selectively but effectively against hoarders and blackmarketeers. The implementation of essential commodities regulations are regularly reviewed in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Wholesale and retail prices of select essential commodities are monitored by the State and Central Governments on a regular basis. Based on the wholesale and retail price information furnished by State Goverianments/UT Administrations, the varition between wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities is not of the order mentioned.

Retail prices of various essential commodities in Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar

7317. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what were the retail ... of various essential commodities